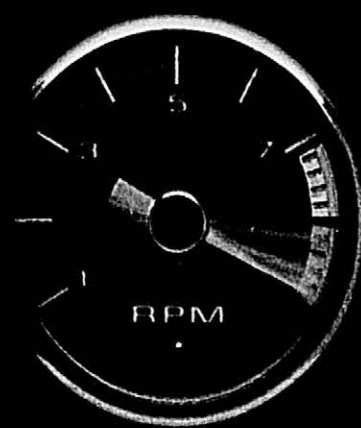
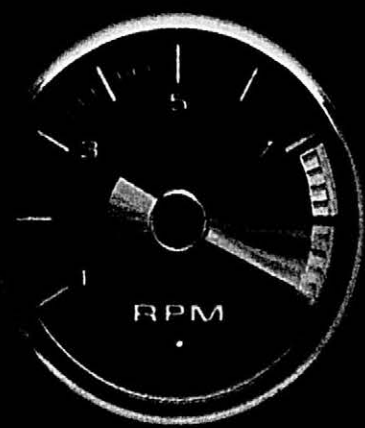


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THE MCGILL DAILY



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The Golden Arches Defeated

Montreal workers win the right to form the only McDonald's union in North America

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

The workers at a McDonald's restaurant in the heart of downtown Montreal were finally triumphant last Thursday in their efforts to win unionization, almost four months after launching the original application.

A Quebec labour commissioner ruled in favour of the Peel St. McDonald's, much to the chagrin of its owner, making the franchise the only one in the North American landscape of Golden Arches to have organized labour.

"McDonald's told us it's not legal for one restaurant to unionize in a chain, but we know now that's not true. It is legal," said Sebastien Clun, who was one of a trio of high-school students behind the unionization drive.

Pascal McDuff, a cohort of Clun's, is excited by the prospect of presenting a united front with his fellow workers when taking on the McDonald's management in negotiations. "I think it's a great victory for youth in Quebec. The real victory will be when we have a signed collective agreement."

Under the stewardship of the Confédération des Syndicats Nationaux (CSN), Quebec's largest umbrella organization for labour groups, Clun, McDuff and Maxime Crompt, organized a union vote last summer, before filing for certification on August 2. Of the fast-food joint's 44 workers, 75 per cent voted for unionization. But the same day the application was made, franchise owner Michel Marchand worked feverishly to bring in 24 new

employees and ask for another vote, a move CSN officials call indicative of McDonald's notorious disdain for organized labour. The CSN persuaded the province's labour commission that another vote should not be held, and that Marchand was clearly trying to swamp the initial majority by making the additional hirings.

Marchand said in an official statement on Thursday that he was perplexed and disappointed by the commission's decision this week to accept the summer vote and that he needs some time to understand the consequences for his restaurant.

"This situation is confusing for all of us and right now, the most important thing is for me to spend time with my managers and crew, and work together," he said.

FROM UNIONIZATION TO NEGOTIATION

Marchand also claimed that some of his employees who were not in favour of unionization had not been given an adequate opportunity to voice their opinions to the labour commissioner.

"I don't believe this decision reflects the true wishes of my employees," he said.

On Friday, Quebec's Superior Court threw out a motion by Marchand to overturn the labour commission's ruling. In his appeal, Marchand's lawyers argued that most of the employees, particularly the new ones ushered in on August 2, were opposed to unionization and that the commissioner had failed to take heed of their concerns.

"His game of artificially drowning out the majority was very clear for the commissioner," said CSN President Marc Laviolette.

Laviolette said he is confident that the labour commissioner's decision will hold up, even if Marchand continues to contest the ruling in front of a tribunal.

He hopes, however, that Marchand will stop trying to have the union certification revoked, and instead concentrate on the next step in the process, negotiating a collective agreement with his staff.

"Now, what we're saying to the owner of the McDonald's is 'let's sit down at the bargaining table and have a collective agreement, so that the working conditions will be improved,'" Laviolette said.

The workers are expected to issue several demands, focusing on improved salaries, safer working conditions, more say in their working hours and a clearer policy on promotions. Currently, burger flippers and cashiers who have been working at the Peel St. McDonald's are paid \$7.15 per hour after one year on the job. They say that they will seek to raise that number to \$8, the rate paid at a Harvey's restaurant that is also represented by the CSN.

HISTORY OF UNION BUSTING

Nevertheless, the workers know that their battle may be far from over, if McDonald's has its way. After a unionization drive at a Squamish, B.C. location proved successful in 1998, managers at the store began placing extra burdens on the workers. They complained that their jobs were made too difficult and voted to decertify a year later. In another instance, workers at a location on Montreal's south shore complained of bullying during a union drive. With accreditation just days away, the owner suddenly closed his restaurant's doors.

Laviolette said he hopes that Marchand does not follow the example of these other franchise owners.

"We're in the year 2000, and the rights to unionize and to bargain are part of the fundamental rights in the Charter of Rights here in Canada," said Laviolette. "Marchand should bargain with the union. He shouldn't close his McDonald's because people are unionizing. He'll still make money, but the young people want their share."

Officials with the McDonald's regional headquarters refused to comment on the workers' victory, issuing a vaguely worded statement on Thursday that praised the

thousands of employees who have helped make the greasy fast-food chain such a success story.

"McDonald's and our franchisees remain 100 per cent committed to our people and to operating with an open and respectful management style at our more than 1,150 restaurants across the country," read the statement. "The events at one independently owned restaurant in Montreal certainly won't change that."

Laviolette said, however, that workers in other McDonald's restaurants may already be moving in the same direction as the Peel St. store and pressing for certification. According to him, the CSN has already received requests from workers at several other McDonald's locations for assistance

with accreditation drives. As well, he said that more attempts at unionization will likely be forthcoming in the wake of Thursday's ruling. Still, Laviolette is prepared for the Golden Arches' hierarchy to once again endeavour mightily to block any form of labour organization. With that in mind, he says, he will not yet specify which other McDonald's locations are considering unionization, for fear that management will clamp down on the workers.

"Even if the right to unionize is a right that is recognized in law, you still have to practise that right underground. Right now we're underground, when it will be the time, you'll know where these people want to unionize. At the end of the day, it's a good thing for young workers in Quebec."

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Nobel-Winning NGO Hits McGill

*Doctors Without Borders
quickly earning a great
deal of support on campus*

BY NATASHA JATEGAONKAR
News Reporter

A handful of McGill students are busily working to get off the ground a campus chapter of one of the globe's best-known NGOs.

Doctors Without Borders, a McGill group based on the international humanitarian organization Médecins sans (MSF), got started last fall. Ever since, its members have been working hard organizing events and raising awareness among fellow students.

"MSF International, first and foremost, is a medical organization," said Jonathan Ross, MSF McGill's founder. "It would offer medical aid to populations in need, but the second aspect would be that it would speak out against the atrocities in the terrain where it could."

MSF McGill, he says, has been focusing on the second part of the international organization's mandate. Since MSF International volunteers are so busy providing aid to developing countries, university students, Ross says, have taken it on themselves to promote awareness of the international group and its campaigns.

That's why, he said, MSF McGill has been setting up booths on campus to spread the word, inviting speakers to McGill, and working hard to coordinate campaigns with other campus groups including the Model United Nations and The Project.

MSF McGill President Thusanth Thuraisingam says that the group also wants to send a message that you don't have to be interested in medicine to take part. "They should change the name from Doctors without Borders to something else, because more than 50 per cent are non-doctors, non-nurses," he laughed.

"We've really got a wide variety of people involved," agreed Ross. "You need people to organize the missions. Now that [MSF is] involved in feeding and water sanitation, you need experts in these fields. They're interested in people with engineering backgrounds, nursing backgrounds, people who speak different languages. Now psychology as well is becoming a big aspect. We really do try to appeal to a diverse crowd of people."

The next step, Ross says, is for MSF to spread to other universities. Since MSF has only operated in Canada since 1991, he said, MSF still lacks the sort of presence on campuses that other humanitarian organizations like Amnesty International and Save the Children have developed. But Ross predicts that that will soon begin to change, especially since MSF

International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999.

"MSF is really keen on getting into all the universities," he said. "It's a really fertile ground. You've got a lot of people who are in their idealistic years. You've got a lot of people who really want to make a difference."

And the campaign to bring more universities on board, according to Thuraisingam, is beginning to enjoy success. "I'm trying to get [the University of Toronto] started, because they're the biggest medical school in Canada. Vancouver is in the process of starting one up too," he said. And with links forged between the McGill group and chapters at Columbia University in New York and the an international school in Israel, Thuraisingam says MSF McGill is on the right track.

Ross said MSF McGill is also trying to give students interested in taking part in MSF International missions, an idea of what to expect. "One of our goals was to give students a realistic idea what they'd be doing. I mean, the idea is a great idea, and it sounds somewhat romantic. Helping people, saving lives, working in an impoverished country. But the fact usually is that it's horrible to see," he said.

Ross said he recently went to see a slide show put on by a Montreal surgeon who had recently returned from an MSF mission in Burundi. While many of the scenes were horrific, he said, "It's important to give people these expectations, because I mean, you go over there, in a place that you've never been before, and feel that you're way, way out of your league. And it's hard, it's really, really hard. But in the end, it somehow all seems worth it."

One. That's how many issues are left before The Daily kicks off its 90th spectacular season as the best-read student paper on campus. Get in on it.

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Rock the Vote, Daily Style

*A last-minute student guide
to voting in the federal election*

elections



BY CAROLYN LEFEBVRE
News Reporter

Faguy (Natural Law Party); Michel Laporte (Nothing Party)

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Too Little is Being Done About Crime, say Cops and Students

Students and police address challenges to making neighbourhood a safer place

BY BARBARA HAAS
News Reporter

Crime rates in the McGill ghetto have been steadily decreasing over the past three years, but most students remain ignorant of the issues surrounding the lingering crime and what they could be doing to make their neighbourhood an even safer place to live.

According to statistics obtained from the MUC police, the crime rate in the neighbourhoods overseen by neighbourhood station 19, has been on the decrease since 1997 when a neighbourhood policing project was first launched by the MUC police. Station 19, which is located at 380 Prince Arthur, patrols the area including McGill and the student ghetto. In 1997, a total of 3,519 crimes were reported in the area, while 3,002 went reported last year. Breaking and entering reports fell to 505 from 591 in 1997, and the number of assaults fell from 196 to 179. The only notable exception has been an increase in reported sexual assaults, jumping from 16 in 1997 to 23 last year.

But many students say they're not aware of the neighbourhood being a safer place.

"It thought it was pretty safe until this year, when a friend of an acquaintance got mugged. So now I'm more cautious," said Armen Gebenlian, a U1 Computer Science student and a ghetto resident. "I think, in general, crime tends to increase."

U1 Microbiology student Lauren Hacker said she didn't particularly know of any concrete facts about crime around campus. "I don't think much about it," she said.

And according to the police, it is these sorts of misconceptions about the crime and lack of knowledge among students concerning prevention that keep the crime rate from dropping even further.

"If you think it's more dangerous to live around here, you're going to stay at home. You're going to leave the area to criminals or delinquents. They're going to take care of the streets and you're never

going to be safe anymore," said Constable Luc Demers, a Community Policing officer at station 19. "But if you decide 'No, this is the place I live, I'm here for three years at the same university, so I'm going to stay at the same apartment, I'm going to decide to know who's my neighbour, I'm going to secure my place, I'm going to take my place in this area,' then it's going to be a secure place."

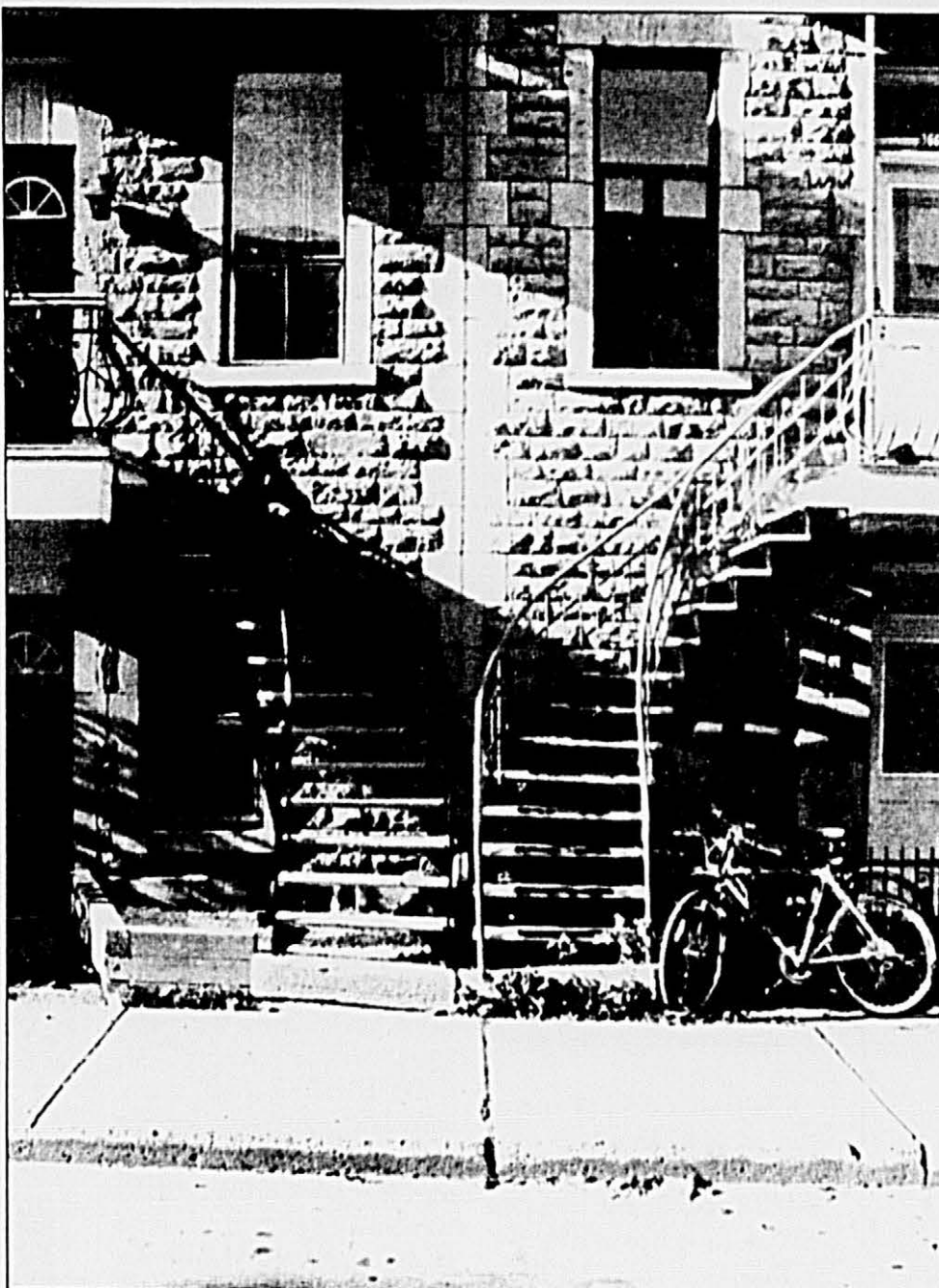
AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

Demers, along with his partner, Constable Nelson Marshall, emphasized the importance of prevention. They said that prevention was especially important for students at risk of having their apartments broken into and robbed.

"If you want to do a break and enter in this area, it's easy. Students leave home in the morning and come back at night. They are less concerned about being very secure," said Demers.

"Maybe one thing that's attractive for thieves in the area is that they know that students who are coming here have money for the year, they bring their TV, their sound systems, their computers, there's maybe money somewhere," added Marshall.

Marshall and Demers offered many tips about the prevention of theft and of assault, and urged students to contact them for information. Station 19 is collaborating with Tandem Montreal in a program that includes a free inspection to determine the safety of a home or apartment. Both went as far as to suggest that crime prevention be made a part of each new student's introduction to McGill. It was apparent that they



Still a safe place to live?

felt McGill was not doing enough to raise awareness about safety issues.

"Otherwise," said Demers, "it's brand new targets of theft every September, when people arrive." Marshall is also concerned about sexual assaults, feeling that with vigilance more of them can be prevented.

TOWARDS A SAFER MCGILL

But according to Vincent Escanlar, McGill is taking some steps in the right direction. Escanlar, a U2 Microbiology student, is currently SSMU's Safety Commissioner.

"It is basically a brand new position. We've only been around for a year and half and we're still trying to work out the specific responsibilities. The mandate right now is simply promote security on and off campus," he said.

And while the Safety Commissioner is the only member of SSMU's Safety Commission at this point, Escanlar is confident that he can handle the job of raising awareness among students single handedly, what he feels is the most important part of his job.

In a recent report to SSMU, Escanlar outlined plans for the year that include dissemination of police briefs, press releases about crime issues in the Ghetto, establishment of a neighbourhood watch, a safety fair, and use of the Safety Commission's website as a valuable resource.

"I think regardless of whether people think it's safe or think it's not safe, I think it's more important to encourage people, whatever they are doing, whatever the condition is right now, that they could contribute to making the neighbourhood even safer," said Escanlar.

But Escanlar admitted that it is not always easy for students in the ghetto to come together as a community to deal with crime issues.

"It's a population that's in flux," he said. "They don't really have the same ties to the community, I guess. That's one thing you need to have to have a safe community."

A PROBLEM OF COMMUNICATION

But the sense among other student groups concerned with campus and ghetto

security is that there is currently not enough communication among those concerned with safety issues.

According to Heather Ranson, a U2 Anatomy and Cell Biology student and Walksafe's Public Relations Co-ordinator, the Safety Commission "could definitely be more involved in communications between groups involved in safety rather than having us seek them out. They should be letting us know about their mandate and how we can work together towards common safety goals." She emphasized, however, that the lack of communications had more to do with a lack of "communication framework," than an unwilling Safety Commissioner.

Sarah Curry, External Co-ordinator of McGill's student-run Sexual Assault Centre, said that Escanlar has not been in contact with her. And no matter what story the statistics tell, she emphasized that acquaintance assaults remain a big problem, since they are often not reported to the police. "[The police] definitely only see the reported [assaults]," she said.

The police were also unaware of Escanlar's position as Safety Commissioner, even though he said that he had spoken with them earlier on in the year.

"Definitely more communication is always better," said Escanlar. "At this point it would be fairly accurate to say that we're only talking to each other when we have to, when something of importance comes up." He said that although students' busy schedules had made it difficult to put together a meeting involving all those active in student safety issues, regular meetings were definitely in the works for the coming months.

Meanwhile, Demers and Marshall said that the best thing students can do is take an interest in safety issues.

"The danger of an area depends on how much you're concerned about it yourself. If all the students who live in this area are very concerned about security for themselves and others, it's going to be the best place on earth. The problem begins if you don't care about what happens in the street," said Demers. "If [criminals] see that nobody cares, for them, this neighbourhood is a perfect place."

	'99-'00		'00-'01 (Year to Date)	
	Stn.19	McGill Ghetto	Stn.19	McGill Ghetto
Sexual Assault	13	7	4	4
Mugging	16	9	7	5
Breaking & Entering	308	211	122	101

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editorial offices:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-03,
Montreal QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6784, fax: 514.398.8318
www.mcgilldaily.com
editors@mcgilldaily.com

business and advertising office:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-07, Montreal
QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6790, fax: 514.398.8318
ads@mcgilldaily.com

co-ordinating editor:

BEN ERRIETT

co-ordinating news editor:

JAMIE KIRZNER-ROBERTS

news editors:

JON BRICKER, SIMON RABINOWITZ

co-ordinating culture editor:

TYLER HARGREAVES

culture editors:

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mind&body editor:

SARI LONG

copy editor:

EMILY JOHNSON

online editor:

LOUISE ADAMIO-BERRY

contributors:

JASON REHEL, OLIVIA POJAR, JESSICA MCKENZIE-
FEDER, JOSÉE POIRER, CÉLINE HEINBECKER,
BARBARA HAYS, NATASHA JATEGMASKAR, ALANNA
EDWARDS

cover design:

SHERWIN "KILLER" TJIA, SALLY WARNER, CRAIG
WARNER

délit français:

PHILIPPINE DE T'SERCLAES

business manager:

MARION SCHRIER

assistant business manager:

PIERRE BOULLON

advertising management:

SASHA DECHENE, BORIS SHEDIN

advertising layout and design:

CAMERON CAMPBELL

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How the West Was Blunt

This Saskatchewanian is slightly sick of separation



BY SIMON NAKONECHNY

Last Friday night, I was watching the CBC television show *counterSpin*, which for the past few weeks has been deconstructing the individual platforms of Canada's five pathetically similar main parties.

This time, it was the platform of the country's resident whiners, the BQ. I have long been tolerant of the sovereignist movement. Before I spent any kind of real time in this province, I would often defend Quebec nationalists' position against the cussin' and spittin' of my fellow Westerners. I would gush about the common Ontario-bred oppression faced by both Quebec and the West and so on and so on. But on Friday, after hearing for the one hundred and first time how Canada does not respect Quebec's individuality – according to some smarmy bow-tied pure-lainiste – I snapped.

I hate to saddle up this old war-horse again, but la souveraineté est morte, morte, morte and I will no longer condone this kind of selfish nonsense. I sympathize with Quebecers' feeling of powerlessness in the Canadian Federation but take a freakin' number!

Originally from Saskatchewan, I have lived in Montreal for the past three years and I can assure all of you dissatisfied nationalists out there that in the Canadian hierarchy, Quebec holds a level of power and respect that greatly surpasses anything the entire Canadian west combined could ever hope to get. Stop trying to re-fight the battles of your parents.

In the portion of North America that is known as Canada, Ontario reigns supreme

and that's that. It's insulting to me that you think that your province should have more power than mine just because 400 years ago, a bunch of your land-grubbing ancestors stuck a cross somewhere in the cold, hard Eastern Canadian ground! Plus, the youth of Quebec are just as Americanized as any other Eminem-worshipping brats. Distinct society? – not for long! The Fubu-clad Brooklyn-wannabes that crowd the Paramount on a Saturday night are way more interested in seeing Drew Barrymore's tits than discussing the relative merits of the PQ Youth Wing's latest roundtable on Quebec language laws. For the western world (if not the entire World), Yankee-assimilation is nearly complete.

Personally, I would love it if Quebec were the burgeoning cultural Mecca it claims it is: a place where American pop culture did not come first. I would love it if Quebec was the hyper-democratic and socially equitable land of ideological sanity in this continent of greed. I would love it if all the dreams of Levesque's generation had come true. Then, if Quebec had separated, I would have moved there and become a citizen of this strange and wondrous land of public sculpture and benevolent crown corporations. Well, it didn't happen. Now the Quebec economy is trying to catch up to the rest of North America, l'Office de la Langue Française is slapping small businessmen with huge fines in its desperate war to keep the people of Quebec as backwards and insular as possible, and egocentric, provincialist pseudo-dictators (read Parizeau & Bouchard) have made Quebecers so sick of referendums that the young'uns don't even bother to vote anymore. Sorry all you diehards out there, sovereignty is dead, and if you want your grandkids to be able to afford more than 49 cent steamees for dinner, you'd better join the rest of the world and get on with the process of becoming good little Americans.

Simon Nakonechny is a disenfranchised U2 Music student.

There's no Daily on Thursday as we prepare the final issue of the real millennium. Here's a special Monday Slibel to get you through the week. Enjoy it with some grilled swordfish.

Slibel & Lander

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

Jeremy Farrell was the student-view commentator on *Radio Noon* last Friday. Jeremy was talking about the election and how he's working on getting the kids out so they won't have whoever to kick around anymore. Jeremy handled himself with aplomb and eloquence so I guess we know who is looking to fill Wojtek's shoes next year. Speaking of the Wojinator, turns out the big guy is spending a bit more time at the job than you would think would be necessary for a tinpot dictator. Rest assured faithful ratepayers, on Slibel's sneak through the SSMU offices on Thursday night Slibel spotted the cute little Void catching some ZZ's on his couch. Turns out that this student president is secure enough to snuggle up with a teddy bear even when he is napping on company property...You think you know what women want? Well, chances are you're in for a surprise. Check out page 22 in this issue and you'll see that it isn't actually straight teeth, nice car and seven figure RRSP, it's actually Helen Hunt and Mel Gibson joined from the neck down.

Who knew that Siamese twins would be so desirable...Slibel would like to formally announce her endorsement of a candidate to replace outgoing Principal Bernard J. Shapiro. You guessed it: Unfrozen Caveman Principal! We could just see him at Senate meetings: "Now I'm not familiar with your 'higher education' or your 'synergistic initiatives', but I do know this: McGill needs more funding from the province."



ON TRACK: Global Warming. If there was a week that would convince you to waste CFC's, last week was it. We need a Hot Planet Party.

ON CRACK: Stock. Not the soup base, the guy. Turns out the cracker-jack boy's days are numbered. The evidence is at bring-backpreston.com and they even spell extremist wrong. Seems good manners come before good spelling.

CAMPUS EYE by Mike Zola



Ghetto dwellers are urged to respect their neighbours in silly poster campaign

APATHY RALLY by Channing Rodman

comics@mcgilldaily.com





A short time ago I had an assignment to do in Spanish class; it entailed finding myself stranded on a desert island accompanied by only three people or things, the likes of which, of course, I could choose. Everyone has had to do this at one point or another. Fine: Naomi Wolf, my Tori Amos CDs, and a carton of Marlboro Lights 100's. This is not a very difficult question. (Some people opted for escape supplies, but I guess I'm not the practical type.) However, things become problematic with a bit of logic. Like, what good are some CDs without a discman and infinite supply of AA batteries? And a carton of quality cigarettes without a lighter that would be like those got milk? commercials with an added twist involving chemical dependency. Need I even mention that Naomi Wolf could go psycho at any given moment, like that time she decided to go pro-life on us. This isn't a fun game anymore.

Let's play something better. What if,

instead of being trapped on the desert island ourselves, we could put people there, so that their existence would no longer be a hindrance to humanity on the mainland? Sorry, there's no way I can limit this list to three.

1) GW Bush and Stockwell Day can share a tent, where they can discuss for hours on end the ways in which legalized abortion contribute to increased incidences of child abuse, without consequence of anyone's actually hearing them.

2) So called feminists like Camille Paglia, who argues that a woman who enters a man's room is asking for date rape, Katie Roiphe, who maintains that the "rape crisis" is imaginary, and Christina Hoff Summers, who attempts to prove that the backlash, is in fact, a myth.

3) Everyone who voted for Rick Lazio, and thinks they're so damn cool just because their state gets 33 electoral votes. The only person who will be allowed to pardon you and permit your return to the mainland will be Hillary; that is of course, only after she becomes president.

4) The Pope

5) An unnamed professor of the English department, for waking me up in class a couple weeks ago with his first mention of the word 'gender' all semester (in a course that is supposed to have a cultural component), only to dictate that we must use gender neutral language, i.e. that tongue tripping 'he or she' in place of every unspecified personal pronoun, in our

papers. Funny how he's suddenly so damn concerned with gender, being as our 460 page course pack does not contain a single woman author. (More on grammar: "'Its,' seems like it would be okay but is apparently wrong, and 'their' is acceptable but it gets very annoying.") On my little island, he will be put into a cave, and not be allowed visitors until he has read the MLA handbook (a punishment usually reserved for hardened criminals, terrorists, and repeat sex offenders) from cover to cover.

6) For previously discussed purposes, Dr. Laura, Eminem, and Bela Karolyi

7) Story time. I was sitting with my Japanese homework on a couchy seat at Newsroom on St. Laurent last weekend – my new favourite place to pretend to be studious – when, thank goddess for distractions, I couldn't turn my attention away from the conversation of two guys sitting across from me. One was talking about an ex-girlfriend who had apparently become very sick. I began to decipher the situation more clearly when he related: "You know her family totally hates me, they think it's all my fault...It's not though, I mean I only asked her to lose a few pounds, not fifty." HIM.

8) And Dr. Atkins too. Both of them will be placed under the strict supervision of The Pope, who will in turn be informed that the two have come to the island to seek repentance for having sex with condoms (and liking it), by way of fasting.

9) Whoever made up the rules con-

cerning food portion restrictions in the rez cafeterias. Especially that bit about juice counting as a dessert. Yeah, so in order to have a minuscule piece of cake-like-substance rez kids will have to settle for unlimited soda instead of anything that remotely resembles vitamin C. The concern for students' well being as reflected by this nazi-style rationing, is deplorable.

Rant complete. And sadly, it can only remain as such; for unfortunately there is this thing called democracy (i.e. we can't just put whoever the hell we feel like on an island). In theory at least. Pity, really.

Fembot appears on Mondays on the Commentary pages

LIFE...(IT FELT SPONGY) by Claire Blanchet



DESPITE HIS TRIUMPHS
OF WIDE RENOWN, FROSTY
HAD ALWAYS FELT SECRETLY
ASHAMED OF HIS WOMANLY
FIGURE.

letters



ADBUSTERS SIMPLE-MINDED,
ONE-DIMENSIONAL

Lest Daily readers should believe Kalle Lasn's claims (Buy Nothing Day coverage, November 23) that anti-racism and feminism are passe, let me propose that they only SEEM "in their autumn" because lefties like him 1) never fully grasped those movements in the first place and 2) reclaimed ownership and spokespersonship of "the movement," rendering anti-racism and feminism near invisible. These movements are alive and well – despite being virtually ignored by large and small press alike, including by anti-consumerist analyses like Adbusters.

Pauline Huang
Shakti women of colour collective

GO BACK TO ONTARIO

I have some advice for Mr. Amzallag who wrote the letter "Stay on one side" (Nov.23). Why don't you and all the other out of province students who don't like Montreal's laissez-faire attitude move back

to Ontario? If your time is so precious, why did you even move to a city where "no one feels like they are in a rush"? There are perfectly good universities in the ever-so-efficient Toronto that you speak of. As long as you are here, all it takes is simple "pardon" and whoever is blocking your path will likely move aside. But if I were you, I'd use your time living in Montreal to learn how to have a little fun from the natives. After all, it is Montreal's laid-back attitude which makes this city so unique in Canada, and such a great place for tight-asses such as yourself to go to school.

C. Lefebvre
U1 English

QUEBEC POST

If you have been alive for the past two weeks you surely have noticed the fiasco that CNN has titled the "Election Crisis" in our neighbour to the south. With that in mind and a potentially close election here in Canada I hereby accuse my postman of conspiring to help his friends in the Bloc Quebecois. This may sound like a stretch, but let me explain.

Consider that the difference in Florida is riding on just under 0.007% of the vote and you need not question the old adage, "every vote counts!" Consider also that the much of the population that comprises the McGill ghetto are either voting out of their riding or for the first time in this federal election. What do these two facts have in common? My mail has not been delivered for the past two weeks, on Wednesday I found a piece of paper in my mailbox

informing me that my service had been discontinued until the serious problem affecting my mail box was fixed.

I do not have a dog, or an obstructed entry -- my mail slot is in perfect working order. It seems that my mailman has decided to crack down on unlocked mailboxes. I live in a house with three separate apartments. I know all of my neighbours and they are all very nice people in fact, none of us lock our boxes because the keys are so flimsy. Yet, for reasons beyond my comprehension I am being targeted in some bureaucrat's obsessive-compulsive rule compliance. This may seem uneventful, even boring. If only I simply could have picked up my mail at the post office around the corner from my house. I would not even have questioned the affair had my mail been placed in one of the four Canada Post locations in walking distance (one of them is the Montreal headquarters).

Instead two weeks worth of mail including my voter registration along with my roommates' and neighbours' was placed eight metro stops away in a small postal outlet at Papineau and St. Catherine's East. The irony of this inconvenience struck me when I noticed the preponderance of Gilles Duceppe signs on the lampposts of the East-end neighbourhood where my mailman had left my mail. It seems the region encompassing this post office is the riding held by Mr. Duceppe of the Bloc Quebecois.

It is with this fodder that I charge my mailman is attempting to affect the result of the next federal election by intentionally withholding enumeration cards in an obviously federalist territory. If his plan is

successful, many young voters who will surely cast their ballots for the Liberals, NDP or Marijuana party (definitely not the Bloc or Stock...I hope) are being denied their right to vote. This is a travesty and an outrage. It must be stopped. I have formally complained to Canada Post and will be buying a Rottweiler to guard my foyer shortly.

Alex Singer
U2 Microbiology

PEACH WILL NOT BE EATEN AFTER ALL

I have been thinking for a while now, and I have decided that I will eat a peach. Yeah, that's it. A peach. And then I'll roll my trousers. It'll be awesome. I'll finally get my life in gear. Yeah. Actually, on second thought, I won't do either of those things.

J. Alfred Prufrock
Dully prosaic, according to the Norton

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Israel & Palestine

Aaron Maté argues that the Israel-US alliance hinders peace in the Middle East.

A perspective on the conflict

BY AARON MATÉ
Features Writer

To date, the recent confrontations in Israel have claimed over 250 lives, including 30 children. The horrible events and the large death toll, overwhelmingly Palestinian, follow the themes established over the course of the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Palestinian civilians, the area's indigenous people, face the force of a much stronger Israeli occupier, who forcefully denies them their basic rights in the continued expansion of Israel's borders and strength.

Early Zionist leaders understood very well that their goal for a Jewish state in Palestine would result conflict with the indigenous Palestinian people, who had lived there for thousands of years. David-Ben Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister, explained privately in 1938 that "we should not ignore the truth amongst ourselves... politically we are the aggressors and they defend themselves... The country is theirs because they inhabit it, whereas we want to come here and settle down, and in their view we want to take away from their country, while we are still outside."

Vladimir Jabotinski, a prominent right wing Zionist leader, noted in 1923 that "Zionism is a colonizing adventure, and therefore it stands or falls by the question of armed force."

Zionist goals for statehood were realized in 1948, when the United Nations partitioned the land of Palestine into separate Palestinian and Israeli states. A war ensued between Israel and the surrounding Arab countries, ending in armistice agreements that divided the partitioned land for Palestine between Israel and Jordan. The Palestinians themselves were excluded from the arrangements. The majority of the population fled their homes, mostly in reaction to the campaigns of Israeli military forces whose stated aims were "the destruction of Arab villages" near Jewish settlements and "the evacuation of their inhabitants, the siege of Arab cities that were not located inside the Jewish State according to the UN resolution and direct actions against Arab targets in Western Palestine, outside the borders of the Jewish state" (Israeli military historian Uri Millstein).

In 1967's Six-Day War, Israel expanded further, conquering Syria's Golan Heights and Egypt's Sinai desert, and, most crucially, Jordan's share of partitioned Palestine, home to 700,000 Palestinians.

In the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, Arab villages and towns are hampered by border closures and curfews, their resources under control of the occupying military force. In many areas, it is illegal for a Palestinian to dig a well or tend fertile

land, while their area's water flows back into Israel, or the neighbouring Jewish settlements, some of which house green fields and swimming pools. Their scarce land is constantly eroded, their homes and trees demolished, while Jewish settlements continue to expand further into Palestinian territory. The situation is much worse for the millions of Palestinians who are forced to live in refugee camps in bordering Arab countries.

"LOCAL COPS ON THE BEAT"

The 1967 war conquests had another significant outcome, as the United States became Israel's main ally. They began supplying the country with enormous military, diplomatic and economic support. In the words of Melvin Laird, Richard Nixon's Defense Secretary, Israel could play military "local cops on the beat." They would "inhibit and contain those irresponsible and radical elements in certain Arab states [...] who, were they free to do so, would pose a grave threat indeed to our principal sources of petroleum," said former US Senator Henry Jackson — not to mention to the "the vast wealth they yield," as Noam Chomsky points out. This is the basic premise for the relationship between Israel and the United States — an alliance that has played a dominant role in the region's affairs for over thirty years.

With US support, Israel has been able to maintain its hold on occupied Palestinian territories while ignoring the consensus of much of the rest of the internationally community. Following the 1967 war, the United Nations Security Council issued resolution 242, which emphasized the "inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war" and called for "[w]ithdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict" in the name of a "just and lasting peace in the Middle East."

Instead, Israel began to establish settlements in the occupied territories, including the now fiercely contested East Jerusalem. Invoking security considerations and laws dating back to the British mandate and even the Ottoman empire, they



US President Bill Clinton converses with Israeli PM Ehud Barak

established a two-tiered legal system which afforded the full rights of Israeli common law to Jewish settlers, but kept Palestinians living in the same areas under military law. These settlements have been gradually expanding throughout the intervening time.

In 1974, Yasser Arafat addressed the UN's General Assembly on behalf of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The UN expressed "grave concern" about the situation of the Palestinians, affirming their right to self-determination.

The international community, in other words, has been sending a message to the Israelis about their 1967 expansion into Palestinian territories all along: it is illegal.

But the US has ignored this message, repeatedly opposing annual UN Resolutions re-affirming Resolution 242. Similar resolutions have also repeatedly been vetoed. For example, in 1976, the US vetoed a Security Council Resolution, drafted on the initiative of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which called for a peace settlement based on UN 242, and the establishment of a Palestinian state next to Israel.

THE VICTOR'S PEACE

Despite its effusive celebration in the media, the recent "peace process" has not improved the situation of the Palestinians. The American-mediated settlement developed in the Oslo Accords of 1993 and partially implemented since then does include a withdrawal of Israeli military forces from some areas of high Palestinian density, where the Palestinian Authority takes control. But this withdrawal is only partial: in

several areas, military forces are only redeployed to other areas populated by Israeli settlers. Israel is to retain full control over borders, water resources, roads, and most arable land.

Under the plan, the new Palestinian state is to be divided into four or five cantons within the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, each disconnected from the other by surrounding Israeli roads and settlements. Control over the Gaza Strip remains unclear, although Israel is expected to retain the southern coastal region, as well as a military outpost in the northern part of the area.

The settlements, built up on the annexed land to create a Jewish presence amongst the enclosed Palestinian population, in violation of many UN resolutions, remain in place, with no constraints on their continued expansion.

It also offers no compensation to the Palestinian refugees who have lost their homes and property to Israeli expansion, losses now valued at \$6-billion US (excluding interest).

In other words, the basic tenets of the "peace process" follow the historical pattern of Israel's rejection of Palestinian rights. It formalizes a rejection of the consensus of much of the world community, with one notable exception, which calls for a full Israeli withdrawal from all the land it conquered in 1967.

In return for effectively signing away their people's livelihood the Palestinian leadership is to be rewarded with rule over the divided cantons, where they will be expected to maintain control over the local Arab population.

continued on page 9



Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat

29.9

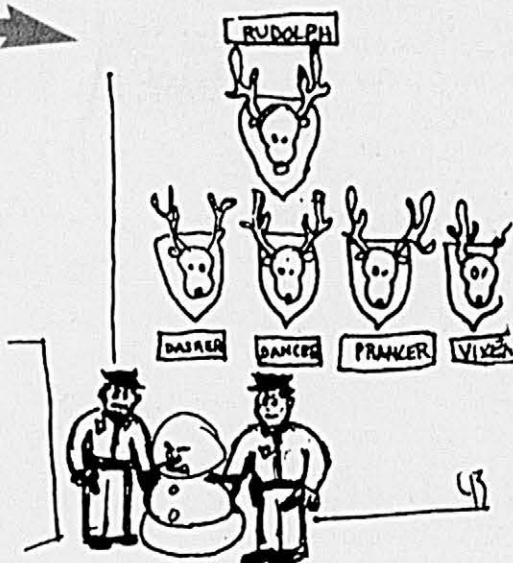
PAIN BREAD

NORMAL BREAD

On the one hand, normal bread didn't stay fresh for long.

On the other hand, it didn't cause horrible pain.

**LIFE...
(IT FELT SPONGY)
BY CLAIRE BLANCHET**



...AND THEN ONE MORNING
FROSTY, AFTER HAVING FINALLY
HAD ENOUGH OF "THEIR
FUCKIN' REINDEER GAMES"...



HUMPTY REALIZED THE DIRENESS OF THE SITUATION ONLY WHEN THEY DECIDED TO "LET THE HORSES HAVE AT IT!"

I resent the implication.



57K

SPECIAL THANKS to ALL who contributed to the ZOMIX issue, including Sherwin TJIA, Jane TREMBLAY, GLAIRE BLACHET, Steve BARKER, John PAUL KONING and the SLY Junket CLARK. You are ALL the wind beneath W.B. GLADSTONE MURRAY's AMPLE wings.

HERA HELP ME SAVE THE DAY, LEST ALL EARTHS PERISH!!!

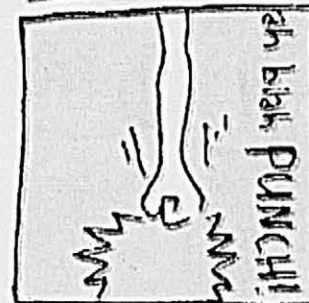
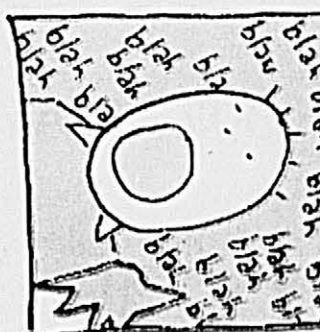
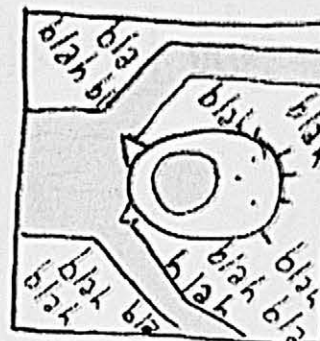
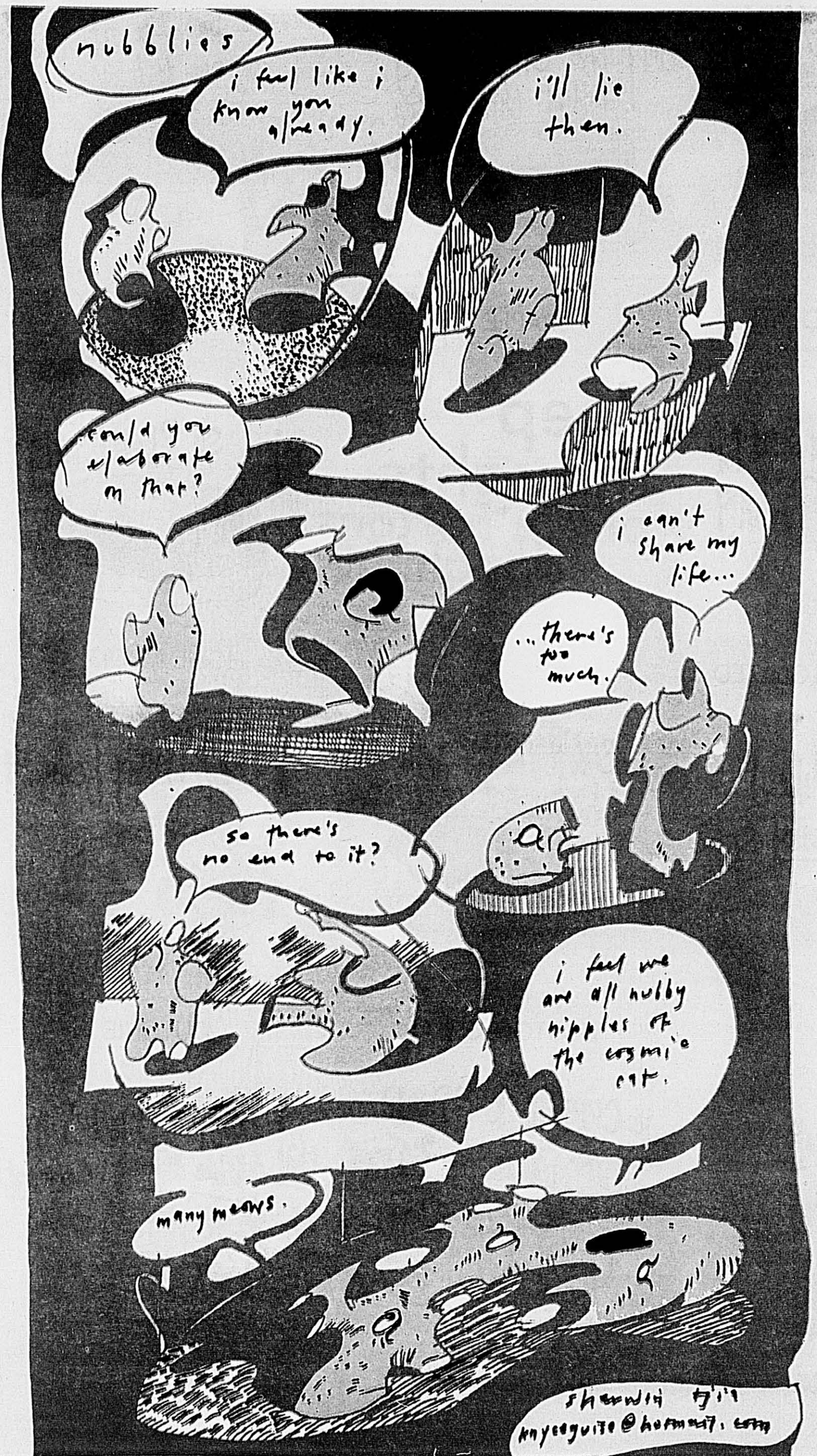
Ohmigod. These are just so much more comfortable. Suffering Sappho, those high-heeled motherfuckers were just *killing* me. Now I can fight crime like I was destined to. And me, a working girl in a Superman's world, I have to work *twice* as hard to get the same sorta respect. Though I'm happy for these boots. By *Aphrodite*, it was so embarrassing when I was chasing after Dr. Psycho down the dark corridors of his secret hideout and my heel broke. I actually had to *stop* and try to take those skintight vinyl suckers off, but they were totally plastered on. It's like my sweat was *glue* or something. It's something similar to when I sat down on the Martian Manhunter's leather couch on that crazy hot day. *Fuck*. Lex Luthor was trying to melt the polar ice caps--*again*. But I was just *attached* to that couch. I swear it was like waxing my legs or something, it hurt *so much* getting up. Anyway, taking those boots off took like, forever. The good Doctor even had time to stop and gloat. I can still hear the monster now: *Struggle, amazon - Yes! Struggle in vain!! You have failed! Your world is mine!* Confident little fucker. Great Hera, it was so satisfying to truss him up in my golden lasso and make him tell, on tape, the truth about his dad and that awful "cattle prod" incident. But it kind of made me feel sorry for him, all the same. Just a bit. Though, hmm...he was trying to take over the world. Global domination, destruction of the known universe, yadda yadda yadda. Hmm. Speaking of global domination, wasn't I supposed to have a coffee at *Starbucks* this week with Hawkgirl? I know I wrote her beeper number down in my planner, but I think I left it in the invisible jet, and I can't remember where I parked it. Geez. You'd think Kal-El would be able to find it with that insane vision of his, but I guess he's still pouting, or a little bitter over last Saturday night. I mean, how in *Hera's Realm* was I supposed to know he didn't have... one? He was like a Ken doll or something. So I laughed. *Wouldn't you?* Some *Superman*. Shit. But look who's talking, I guess. My social life is the Justice League. Hmm. The Flash was looking pretty hot the other day. But he's probably a wham-bam kind of guy. Steve's probably hanging out with some army base skank, I just *know* it. Hmm. I wonder what HawkGirl is doing tonight. Mmm. Those wings of hers. So *soft*.

**That Simple Black Dress Will Change The Way I Live My Life So I Must Get It.**

Jeezus. Just because of *that* she's acting like it's the end of the world. Not like we don't have enough to worry about, like, *power* outages or anything. *Hello!* So I want to spend New Year's in Montreal--*big deal*. The way she's acting you'd think I was *pregnant*. My mom, she can (that *[I need you I love you I hate you]* bitch) be sooo controlling. And if I don't do what she says she'll just guilt me into it. She'll just hold her goddamn grudges until I give in. Alright, I'll (feel like a *[want to hit you kill you]* puppet) go home for New Years. The family's (what *[dad drinking [scary] too much, mom [can't tell when she's being real] guilting me into helping out and being all smiling, Rob [a mystery] moping around the house]* family?) supposed to be together. Hard to believe I'm an aunt. Hard to believe Sal just had a baby. For Chrissake, she's only 23. Oh, what's that kid's name again? God, I mean, I'm her freaking *aunt!* I should know her *name*, at least. Better find that photo when I get home, put it in my planner. Beside Ali's. I wonder if it's too soon to put his picture there. I mean, it's been 3 months. That's pretty long, isn't it? Long for me, anyway. *Mmm*. Ali. He's probably finishing his Stats class right about now. Was it Stats, or something else? Anyway. Oh! I like that. I'll have to remember that look. I really like the skirt. *Omigawd*. Is that Celine Dion? Sure as hell doesn't *look* like her. But then, I'm pretty sure *my* mug'd look strange and washed out blown up to six by four feet. Boy, look at all this yellow snow. I wonder if it's a cat's or a dog's. Maybe a cat's. I don't know why I always think dogs. Maybe because dogs are so much more *obvious* about it. The way they keep sniffing though, you'd think they *liked* it. Hard to believe. But I guess that's the way they communicate. Like email. Just checking their messages. I know the way Buster Kitten always scratches at the door, like he absolutely *needs* to get outside, even when it's freaking *twenty* below. Crazy cat. Cats are crazy. Absolutely insane. Oh, I hope Ali's coming over tonight. I hope he finishes his studying *early*, then we'll have time to spend with each other. I hope he remembers to bring (holding me *[warm in here]* touching me) condoms. I'm all out.



this is a cartoon by
john-paul koning



Alas! Silence...

showing to
knyeguite@hotmail.com

maybe I'm a bit
excessive



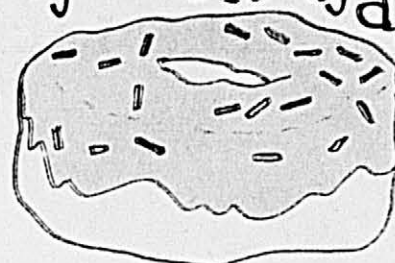
DOUBLE CHOCOLATE

am I the only thing
holding this country
together?



MAPLE DIP

I hope I'm not the
only one left again.



HAWAIIAN

maybe I'm only good for
dunking



SOUR CREAM GLAZED

deep
thoughts
of tim hortons
doughnuts

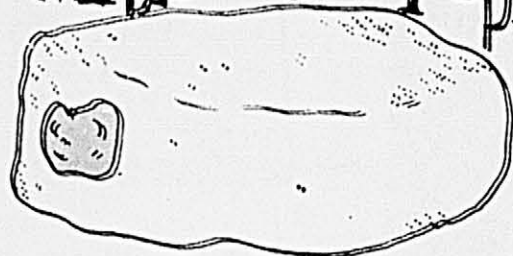
by steve barker

i'm so fleeting.



HOLIDAY DIP

I'm also filled
with irrational spite



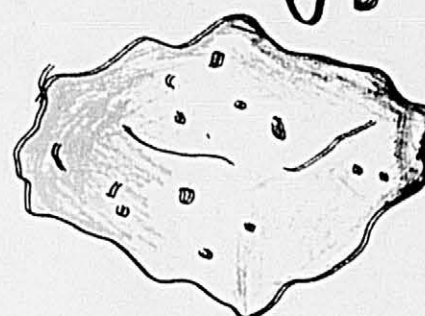
JELLY

sox'll never win
the pennant next season



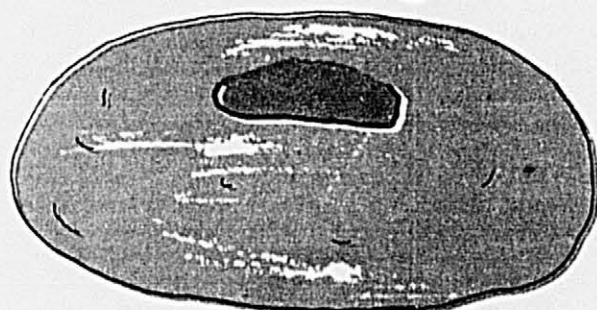
BOSTON CREAM

i don't really belong.



DUTCHIE

i'm so dull.



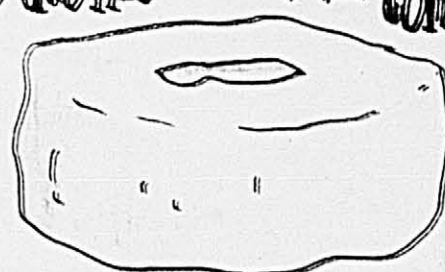
OLD FASHIONED PLAIN

je combat le spleen
avec l'inspiration et une T'spirl



FRENCH CRUELLER

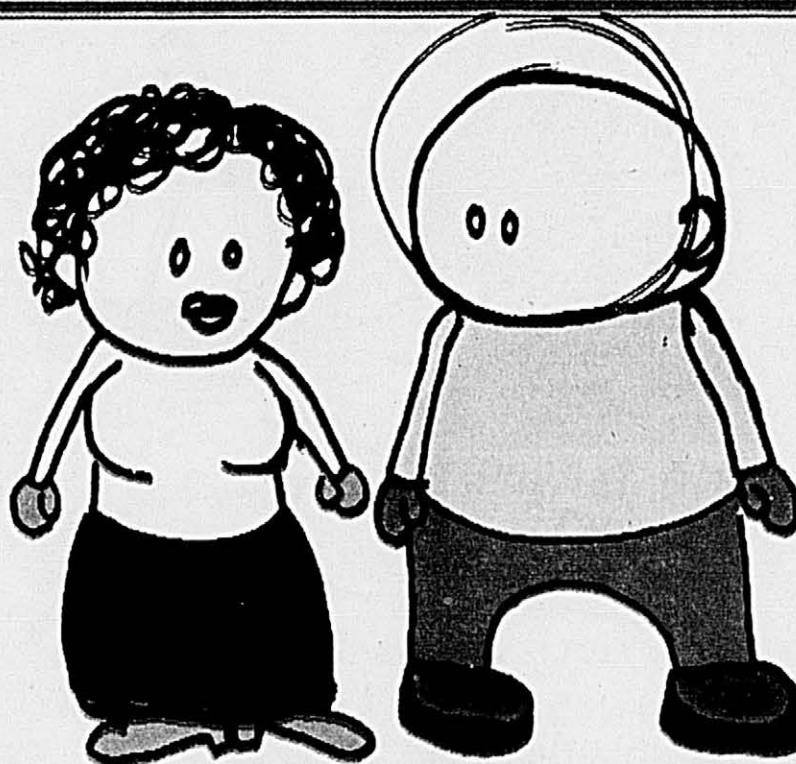
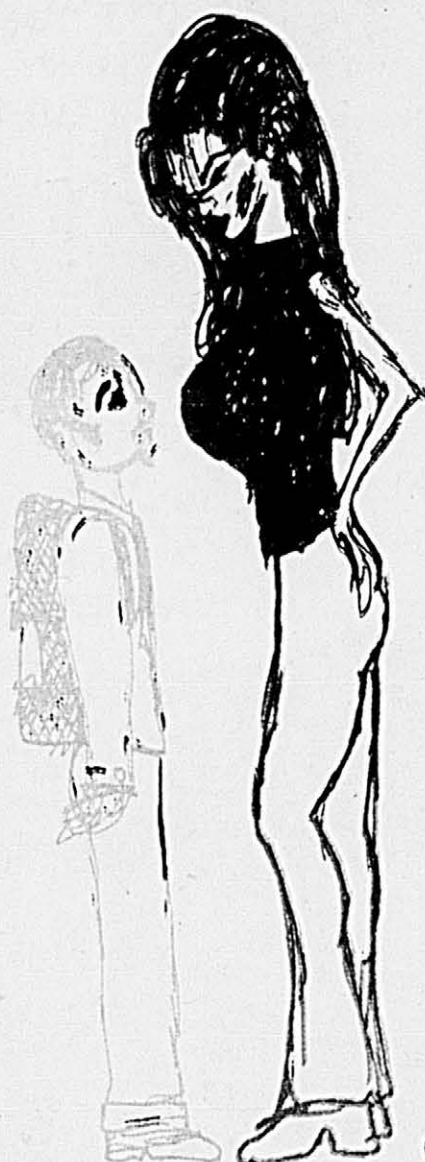
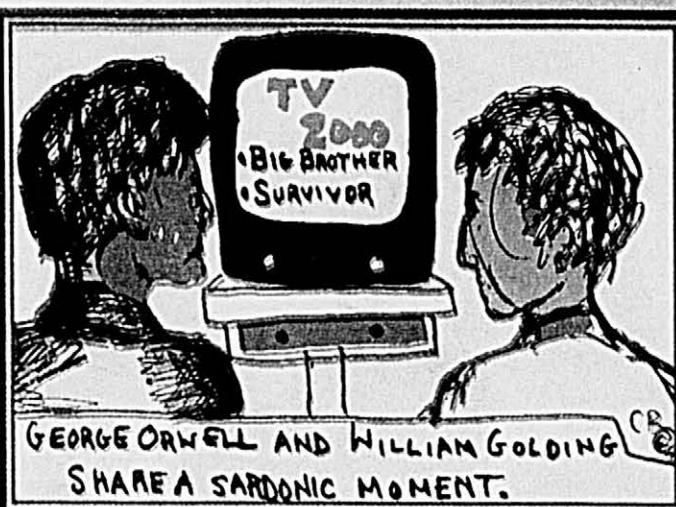
i think i could beat
that dutchie in hand-to-hand combat



HONEY GLAZED

LIFE... (IT FELT SPONGY)'S FESTIVAL OF VOYEURISM

THE GRAND HOTEL







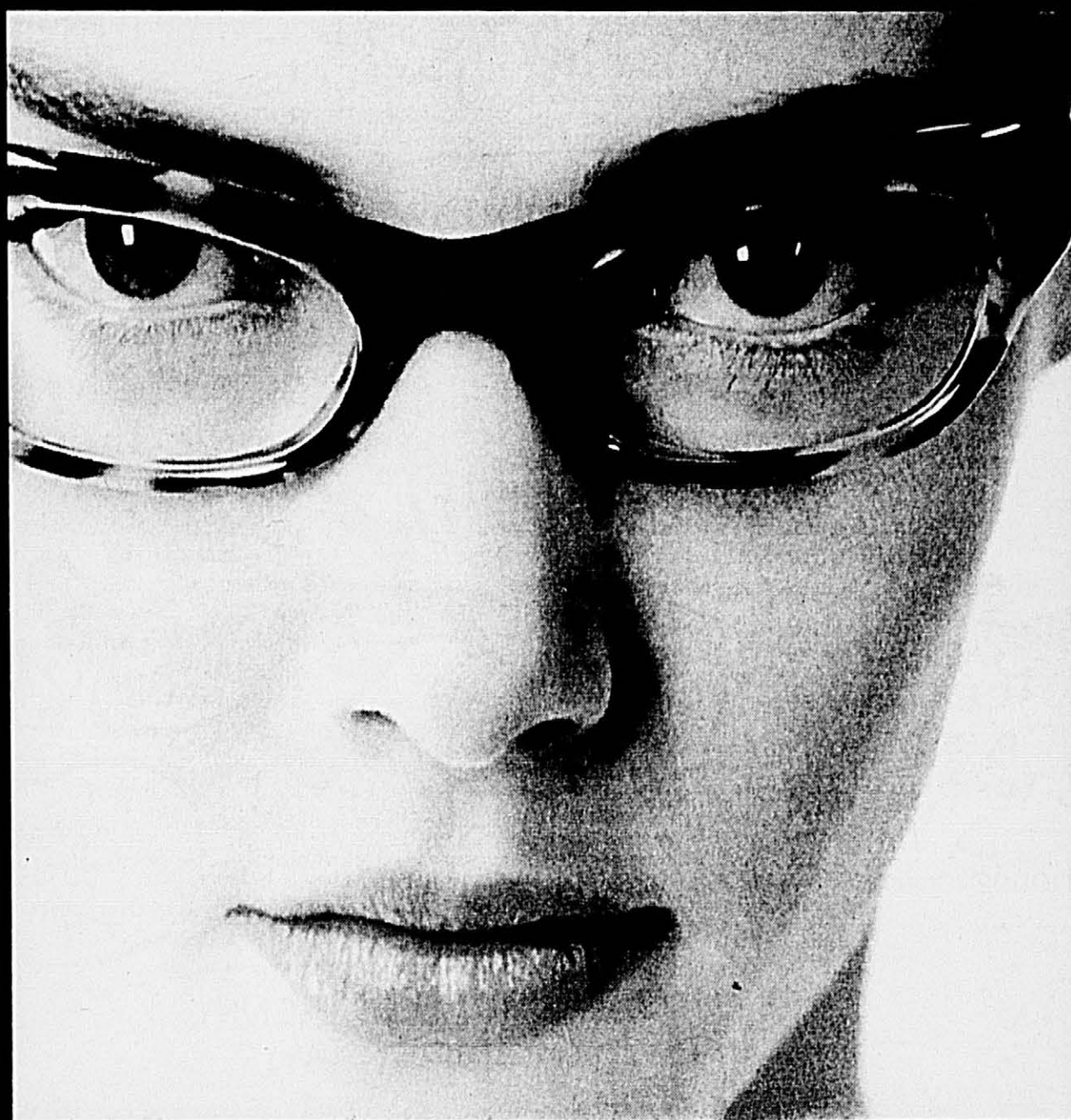
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DR. F. MAROUN, OD



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AN APPOINTMENT

286-8020

continued from page 8

This is a role that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's security forces have carried out pretty successfully. Human rights organizations annually condemn the PA for unlawful measures of rule, including harsh torture. The brutality of Arafat's regime is no doubt a tribute to the effective tutelage of the CIA, who have worked closely with the PA forces in security training and cooperation, another fruitful partnership to emerge from the peace process.

With the recent outbreak of violence and protest in the Occupied Territories, however, Arafat's ability to control his people has come into question. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak has expressed his willingness to pursue other alternatives, should the US-Israeli designs for "peace" do not come to pass. The New York Times (Oct. 22) reports that Israel is considering a unilateral separation, in

aration. That such measures, cutting off completely the already meagre amount of water, electricity and other requisites of basic human necessity allotted to the Palestinian people would be "economically devastating" and cause "severe hardships" for them is apparently a matter that deserves little consideration.

It is worth noting that such proposals are quite similar to those presented to Arafat at this past summer's Camp David summit. Mediated by President Bill Clinton, the meetings were undertaken to work out the final details of the peace process initiated at Oslo. To accommodate the Palestinian claim to the holy city and historic capital, Abu Dis would be renamed Al Quuds, the Arabic meaning for "Jerusalem." Israeli-US proposals were rejected by Arafat, who, as weak as he has become, could not accept what was a virtual surrender on the issue of sovereignty over Jerusalem.

water and other resources, was lauded by the editors of the *New York Times* as "the most generous compromise terms possible under current political circumstances," in a September 30 editorial criticizing Arafat's "unhelpful rigidity."

The analysis is accurate, although with one crucial disclaimer, which the editors failed to include. The constraints on what is "possible" lie within the narrow spectrum of US-Israel policy developed over the past thirty years. Arafat's rejection of the "creative solution" to rename a neighbouring village Al-Quuds, the Arabic word for Jerusalem, stemmed from his inability to "break free of several generations of Palestinian ideology about the sanctity of sovereignty over Jerusalem," said a story in the *New York Times* by Marc Lacey and David Sanger, July 26. William Safire (NYT, Oct. 12) warns that Israeli leaders now know that their benevolence is not reciprocated, as "Barak's urge to compromise was taken by Arabs to be appeasement, a sign of weakness." Future presidents can learn from the example of Clinton, who in his desire to "to make history in the role of peacemaker led him to position the US as a broker, equally trusting of both sides," only to be betrayed by the stubborn Palestinian leader, who "led Clinton down the garden path, gobbling up brokered concessions and giving nothing in return."

Here in Canada, a similar message prevailed. Marcus Gee, an international correspondent for the *Globe and Mail*, scolded the Palestinian people, who "are feeling good these days," after a "few weeks of rioting and mayhem [have] done wonders for their self-esteem." ("Palestinians squander their freedom," Oct. 26) Nonetheless, they are "fools" who have thrown away their best chance at freedom in fifty years," he writes.

Others laid the blame elsewhere. As tensions swelled, the UN Security Council made a statement condemning Israel for "acts of violence and excessive use of force" against Palestinian civilians — a motion from which the US abstained.

MANUFACTURING LAMENT

Arafat's rejection of the proposed deal caused a fury in the mainstream North American press. Outrage from the American newspaper of record, the *New York Times*, was especially vehement. As the unrest in the occupied territories persisted, its commentators blamed Arafat for his rejection of Israel's "significant concessions," which, as usual, "were never enough to satisfy the Palestinians," wrote Lawrence S. Eagleburger in the *Times*, October 1. A few days later Avraham Burg marvelled at how "Israel gave in to most Palestinian demands, understanding that a strong peace is a much better alternative than a strong war."

An offer that included no compensation for refugees and rendered the state divided and weak, with no control over



Amnesty International has condemned the sale of US-manufactured Blackhawk helicopters to Israel.

“ Israel used helicopter gunships to fire on Palestinian civilians, including children, some of whom have reportedly been killed or injured as a result. ”

- Amnesty International

Amnesty International noted Israel's "punitive attacks during incidents where there was no imminent danger to life," using "helicopter gunships to fire on Palestinian civilians, including children, some of whom have reportedly been killed or injured as a result." AI's criticism came in the context of a condemnation of the US, who had just recently provided Israel with 35 Blackhawk helicopters, at a cost \$525 million. The sale, the highest in many years, received virtually no press coverage in any of the mainstream US publications.

While the visit of Ariel Sharon, the right-wing Israeli leader, who is associated with numerous violent attacks against Arabs, to the Temple Mount, a contentious holy site claimed by both Muslims and Jews, was certainly a provocative action, commentators are wrong to point the finger solely at him for the outbreak of violence. Perhaps it

was the presence of the 1000 soldiers who accompanied him (authorized by Barak himself), or worse, their presence the following day, when thousands of Muslims gathered to pray, and seven were killed, hundreds injured in ensuing confrontations. Above all, when considering the recent wave of violence and anger, it is important to keep in mind Palestinian frustration and despair at a long history of occupation and suppression. Their situation has only worsened during the "peace process" that was supposed to improve their plight. All the while, attention and blame are directed at the Palestinian "fools," who "squander their freedom" by not accepting the arrangements provided for them by US-Israeli design.

So long as Israeli-US policy continues to be guided by such attitudes, it is unrealistic to expect a peaceful resolution to the conflict.



“ A few weeks of rioting and mayhem have done wonders for Palestinians' self-esteem. ”

- Globe columnist Marcus Gee

which it "would separate by creating its own borders, thereby carving out a Palestinian state as well." For the Palestinians, "separation would be a kind of extended border closure, in which Palestinian areas would be sealed off, checkpoints reinforced and the movement of goods and labor severely restricted." The enclosure "would be economically devastating for the Palestinians," who greatly rely on work in Israel. Further, an added measure under consideration is "disentangling the water and electricity systems, which would inflict severe hardships on the Palestinians."

Of course, in Israel there are objections to this plan. The main argument, offered by "business leaders on both sides," is that "the high-tech Israeli economy and the low-wage Palestinian work force made an ideal marriage," one that would be endangered by a unilateral sep-



The disputed site of the Al-Aqsa mosque sparked the current conflicts.

FUN FACT ABOUT OUR FOUNDER: Till this day, W.E. Gladstone Murray, Esq., is remembered as an iconoclast of his time. Not only was he a ground-breaking journalist and a peace-building diplomat, he also devised the electoral college system in the United States and founded the famous Schwartz's smoked meat deli on St-Laurent. As if these considerable accomplishments were not enough to ensure his place in the annals of history, Murray also very nearly altered Canada's political landscape forever. The 1972 federal election, ultimately won by Pierre Trudeau's Liberal Party (though Trudeau had to settle for a minority government, with David Lewis and the NDP picking up the balance of power), saw W.E. Gladstone Murray come forward to present a radical alternative to the traditional parties. Murray, generally recognized by the public as the wisest Canadian alive, took a cue from that Plato and asked the Canadian electors to select him as their philosopher king. He proposed to rename Canada, "The Fief of W.E." Although it soon became apparent that Murray had no chance of winning the election, he threatened to be the Canada's very first benevolent despot. This threat became major issue in the campaign, something that had never happened before and never did again.



Super Terrific Election Day Politician Quiz-o-Rama!

To mark today's federal election, The Compendium Page staff has combed The Daily's extensive and well-maintained Photo Archive to assemble the motley crew of politicians collected below. Your mission, should you be insouciant enough to accept it, is to name all of the liars, slugs, and megalomaniacs on the handy ballot attached. Bring the completed ballot into The Daily office (Shatner B-03) today and pop it in the ballot box. We'll print winners' names next Monday. Good luck and remember: it's not the size of your chin that counts, but the number of two-term majority governments you amass before the Canadian public throws you out on your babushka.



The Ballot

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____

Conservative Chins

- A. _____
- B. _____
- C. _____

Your Name: _____

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Special Bonus Name-the-Progressive- Conservative-Chins Lightning Round!



Holy Cow! These Steaks are Good

Students' film opens this week. The Daily's got deets and a talk with the director

By JOSÉE POIRER
The McGill Daily

Some people are passive. Others, ambitious. Others still decide to pursue their dreams. Gavin Heffernan is that guy pursuing his dreams. When Gavin arrived at McGill, he started to translate his freshman year experience into the language he liked the most: cinematography. That's how *The Steaks* was born, the movie you may have already heard about.

The Steaks is the story of a competition run by a McGill radio station in which the contestants are put inside a car and the one who lasts the longest gets the jeep. Hijinks ensue. The focus is on four characters who are in the competition. Finn, Lauren, Brian and Sarah are the leads and they are all played by McGill students.

Although Gavin might have written the scenario according to his personal experience and ideas, this project is no more solely his. It has become the connection of almost 200 students from McGill who did not know about each other a few months ago. Their devotion is explained by a need to be something more than tuition fee payers. They want to be more than a student number at McGill.

To be convinced of the beauty of the project, a visit to the set is more than enough. There, everyone shares their ideas and opinions and put everything they've got to the movie. Gavin praises



Left: A new day rises for McGill campus and others

Below: People talk in Gerts. Malice towards none

the merits of the team and of everyone who gets involved. His greatest luck, he says, is their devotion. The atmosphere and the spirit of the cast make the movie an event in itself.

Collaboration and involvement are a kind of attitude that is unfortunately less and less appreciated in general, especially when you are a university student. Like if doing something with our lives besides drinking coffee to studying longer was not as (or perhaps more) honourable than getting a degree. The problem is that we have been so brainwashed to perform in our studies that our grades and CGPA come first, before our leisure (which is not necessarily wrong), but also before our

friends and, in a much more alarming way, ourselves.

Our studies don't offer us that many occasions to find a personal feeling of accomplishment. For the cast of *The Steaks*, they have already found a way: on November 30th, their 'baby' will be presented for the very first time, after months of hard work.

The Steaks is impressive because it is an admirable artistic project that has the merit of being the work of a network of students. Incredibly talented people who remind us that despite the importance of our studies, our social life and personal achievements are the two real priorities today. And perhaps those of tomorrow, as we will take a

look back at our university days. With your McGill degree in hand, what do you think you will remember the most? The amount of energy produced by a particular chemical reduction, or the good times spent filming, singing, laughing, amusing ourselves, playing, realising dreams, celebrating, and getting involved? In other words, living our lives passionately. Think about it. What have you done or lived recently that you will still remember in ten years?

If you are curious about the final product, come check out the premiere this Thursday at 8p.m. in Adams Auditorium.



Director talks about cast and costs

By CÉLINE HEINBECKER
McGill Daily Alumni

WHAT IS THE FILM ABOUT?

The movie's about an underground radio station's contest. They have a Jeep Cherokee to give away and they randomly draw four McGill students' names. Those four students are given the task to live inside this car on top on the reservoir for 23 hours a day. They have bathroom breaks and things like that and they get Sundays off. The last person to leave gets the Jeep. No one likes the radio station, but for some reason this contest really takes off. It gets popular, people get addicted to it, people on the inside become celebrities on campus. It's a good way to get into these characters' lives.

TELL ME ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTER.

The narrative evolves through the eyes of the main character, Sarah. She is at the point in her life where her boyfriend is ready to graduate and move to England. He wants her to come with her. She feels trapped in this relationship - she's not really happy but she's afraid to get out of it. She's about to make the decision when she gets a call about this contest. It's her escape from making the decision.

AND THE OTHER CHARACTERS?

I play a guy called Brian. He's obsessed with movies and stars. Celebrity really drives him. He becomes one of the real favourites of the contest. As it goes on, his head gets a little big. It's like a dream come true for him. Everyone recognizes him in the small world he's in.

And then there's Finn. He's very quiet. He's always composed. People

like him, but he always takes it in stride. The others complain that they're trapped inside a jeep, but he's sitting on the roof looking at the stars. He knows how to enjoy it. Incidentally, the focus of the narrative is the love story that develops between him and Sarah. He's everything that she needs. He's everything that her boyfriend isn't. She and her boyfriend Jake are opposites.

Also, there's Lauren. Everyone likes her, she's nice. Like each character, she goes through a change in the movie. Everyone starts out with a problem, but by the end, through the contest, the character sees their problems resolved. In her sense, she learns to stand up for herself.

DID YOU GET ANY INSPIRATION FROM SURVIVOR?

Actually, no. I started writing the

film last September and we finished filming before I'd even heard of *Survivor*. It's very different. The competition is just a backdrop. It brings the characters together.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOTIVATION TO MAKE THE FILM?

I wanted to write a script that I was going to be able to make myself. I was trying to think of telling an interesting story that was fundamentally really basic. A car on the Reservoir is the starting point of the movie. It builds from there.

WHEN DID YOU MAKE THE FILM?

We started in March and filmed until April 28. We worked 12-hour days right through exams. It was pretty intense. Everyone was so good about it. They got into it, put in the hours, and were really dedicated.

WHAT COSTS DID YOU INCUR?

Around a \$1,000. There is some equipment that I bought, but I'll be able to use it again. Many of the costumes and some equipment were borrowed. People really helped us.

WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR THE SCREENING?

Well, the screening will be at Adams. We're donating all proceeds to charity.

I'm looking forward to the screening, because it's the first time we'll see an audience's reaction to the film. When you do a play, you get to hear the laughter. But when it's a movie, you have to wait for the screening.

HOW FAR DO YOU PLAN TO TAKE THIS?

Well, I want to make a career of this, definitely.

Citystyles # 3 the Winter Edition

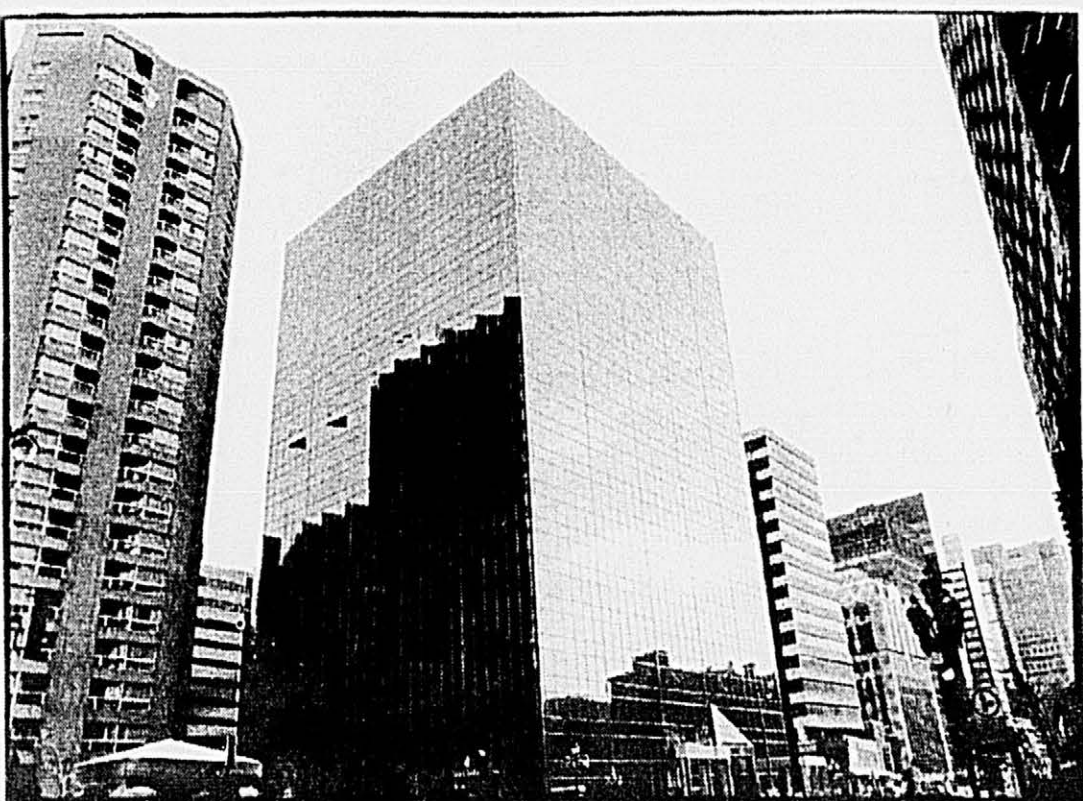
By Pierre Alain Parfond



It was cold...



it snowed....



I took pictures.

Dear God! Is Nothing Sacred?

TNC Theatre Hits Hard with Satire of Catholic Church

BY JESSICA MACKENZIE-FEDER
Culture Reporter

To spend Saturday night sitting in a classroom environment listening to a patronizing nun define heaven, hell, and purgatory as she

therefore ultimately end up in hell."

Her long interludes are sporadically interrupted by the emergence of bright-eyed pre-pubescent Thomas who impeccably recites excerpts of Catholic indoctrination in return for Oreo cookies.

Thick with irony, Sister Mary's

able laughter from her audience.

A group of Sister Mary's former students make an appearance half way through the play. The satire peaks with their enactment of the Christmas pageant for her, by which point the spectators are practically falling off their

chairs in laughter.

After the "play within the play" confrontations between the students and their former teacher address serious issues such as abortion and homosexuality. All the actors deliver wonderfully; Dave Greenwood plays a convincing homosexual, and Aaron Baril's squirming and dancing have the audience convinced that he will imminently urinate all over the stage if the authoritarian Sister continues to forbid him to go to the washroom. The surprise ending is an explosion of irony, and while darkly humorous, it also inspires the audience to evaluate the danger of fanatical religion.

Largely sacrilegious, this play is unquestionably controversial and potentially insulting. In fact, in 1981

when the play opened, Catholic groups demonstrated against it, and writer Chris Durang even received a letter bomb during the dispute. What one must keep in mind is that it is a satire, a simple ridicule of society. If we mortals can not sit back and laugh at ourselves a little bit then the world can start to seem much too serious and somewhat scary.

"Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You" falls nothing short of brilliant; director Kate Hahnen, with the help of superb actors, brings this hilariously entertaining and thought-provoking play to life.

Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You closed Saturday night. Check TNC's quality lineup next semester.



vehemently strikes visual aids with her wooden pointer hardly sounds like an attractive option.

Last weekend *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* presented by the Tuesday Night Cafe Theatre, proved that such an activity can have tremendous entertainment value. The play features Sister Mary, a nun and school-teacher at "Our Lady of Perpetual Sorrow" giving a crash course on the subtleties of Catholicism. She uses the same tone of voice while clarifying the often misunderstood definition of the immaculate conception as she does while graphically describing the pain and anguish felt by Christ on the cross as "blood squirted from his brain through his eyes."

While contemptuously avoiding the question of why God lets bad things happen to good people, she lectures long-windedly about those sinners who ate meat on lent back in the 1950s. Then, it was a mortal sin, but if the carnivorous individuals have since confessed they could hypothetically be forgiven by God.

She goes on: "however, people who committed this mortal sin would have most likely been predisposed to committing other mortal sins for which they can not receive forgiveness and they will

speech grows more ridiculous by the second act. Melissa Thingelstad (playing the sister) gives an incredible performance while keeping a poker face as she delivers the expeditious rhetoric. Masterfully conveying the irony in the play, Thingelstad provokes uncontain-

Top: The baby's out and now the pressure is on.

Left: Your junior high school class. Those were the days.



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Imago Offers Up a Tiger Bomb

Fledgling theatre company's desperate attempt falls short

BY JASON REHEL
Culture Reporter

Sure, we're all considering suicide a little more seriously in late November. With papers, exams and impending academic doom staring us all in the face, Judy Garland's "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," seeping through the ceiling at La Baie, not to mention the ever-looming threat of both the weather and the end of your relationship, it's easy to understand why the subject of self-annihilation might hit closer to home than usual. In this vain then, under the direction of Brian Mishara, Imago Theatre is presenting a bilingual production of Robert Kastenbaum's *Tell Me About Tigers/Parle-moi des Tigres*, a narrative symbolically driven by William Blake's lyric poem "The Tyger." Both director and playwright have been intimately involved in the research and dissemination of information on suicide and death, perhaps to the detriment of both the closed script and the cryptic direction.

The production is described as "a playful and sensitive look at the anxieties provoked by a premature death." It stars Pierre Lenoir, as a terminally ill man who returns to his various personal relationships to say goodbye and to expose his contemplation of suicide/euthanasia. The ironic twist is Joshua (Lenoir) is also the coordinator of a suicide crisis centre, based on the real life founder of Suicide Action Montreal (S.A.M.), Réjean Marier, to whom the production is dedicated. Paul Doucet, in the triple role of the doctor, close friend, and colleague, offers a virtuoso performance as all three characters opposite Lenoir, save the little niece played by Klara Eli and Arlen Aguayo-Stewart depending on the language of performance. The show is working in conjunction with (S.A.M.), and a benefit show was held on November 23.

Unfortunately, the dialogue written for this show and the direction provided fail in their execution. The acting and mise en scène follow this pattern. The treatment of such a topic, in not one but two languages, and the attempt to mold the metaphor of such a prominent Romantic lyric into the fabric of a performance are both lofty tasks. As seen in Infinitheatre's *Two Trees*, the treatment of poetry and literature by the stage can be tricky.

This performance fails on several levels. First, it fails to establish closeness between the characters. The audience is left confused for about a half hour, wondering who Joshua is, if he's already dead, and if he isn't, why someone won't help him die. The scenes meant to offer the most poignant contemplation of suicide and death seem to instead confuse, or alternately, spoon-feed the audience a narrowly defined interpretation of the imagery or text of Blake's poem. The result is that this play, in trying to do too much, either tries too hard, or doesn't try

hard enough, depending on what point you are at in their narrative.

One example of this is when Joshua engages in a comic, (yet supposedly meaningful) soliloquy with his damaged leg (the source of physical illness). The baby talk used here as an excuse for dialogue is maddening and almost

right and center offer a convincing frame from which to view the action, but then it all fizzles. The dialogue, I'm afraid, once again seems to fail the actors, with Joshua offering tidbits on life, (and its preciousness) to his niece Francesca, all the while imposing a pedantic and altogether ridiculous framework on the audi-

question here too, since I would like to demand an explanation for why I was forced to watch both Joshua and Francesca crawl around the stage miming tigers, when all the other devices to that point have been devoted to moving beyond the surface representations of the tiger. What is the message here? Tigers are alive? We are alive? We are all tigers? We are all alive like tigers? Because if that is the message, then baby, has the theatre ever reached a new low for oversimplified interpretations of complex texts. William Blake's brilliant late 18th century lyrical gem, from his *Songs of Experience*, speaks to more than merely the life energies of an old man, but to existential questions surrounding the writer, the artist as well as the surface level tiger.

The most frustrating thing about *Tell Me About Tigers* is that I was rooting for it work. There were even points when it did, such as when the three stage screens are combined with a harrowing soundscape to bring a definitive hospital setting into being. But these were few and

far between, and because of the sheer number of monumental tasks it set out to complete within the context of a ninety minute play, the play ended having failed in most of them. I still hope the show does well, however, because of the awareness it will raise around suicide prevention (especially this time of year), and around the need for bilingual theatre to become more prominent in this city. Hopefully next time out Imago will focus their performances a bit better and actually pick a script that engages an audience. Save your pesos and donate them to Suicide Action Montreal.

The production continues its run at Théâtre Prospero, 1371 Ontario St. E. this Wednesday and Friday through Sunday. Call 526-6582 or 790-1245 for tickets (\$16 for students).

Call Suicide Action Montreal (S.A.M.) at 723-4000 for more information on programs or volunteer opportunities. They operate a 24-hour help-line and employ a network of over 240 volunteers.



Call me daddy

embarrassing. In a performance which seems to be not only striving for a real and natural feel, but a hyper-real feel with its employment of Romantic-era poetry, a discussion between a man and his diseased leg seems hardly a method to achieve such lofty ends (maybe it works better in French, I dunno).

The tiger scenes, perhaps the most disappointing because of their possibility, employ courageous uses of lighting and sound to deliver a mock jungle and tiger-fee. Two screens placed stage left and

ence. She is portrayed as a six or seven year-old, and we are treated as such. The problem is, the writing and the characterization fit neither the subject matter of Blake's poem nor the subject at hand, suicide, death and assisted suicide. I mean, I don't know about anyone else, but discussing the issue of death and suicide with little kids isn't my usual strategy for working these things out. These are, to a very real extent, "big people" subjects.

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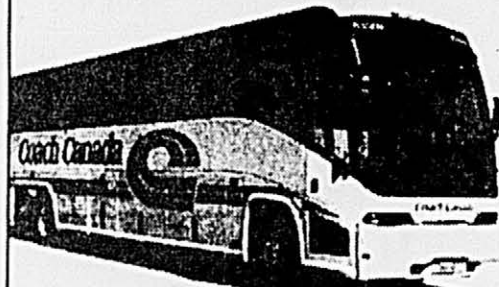
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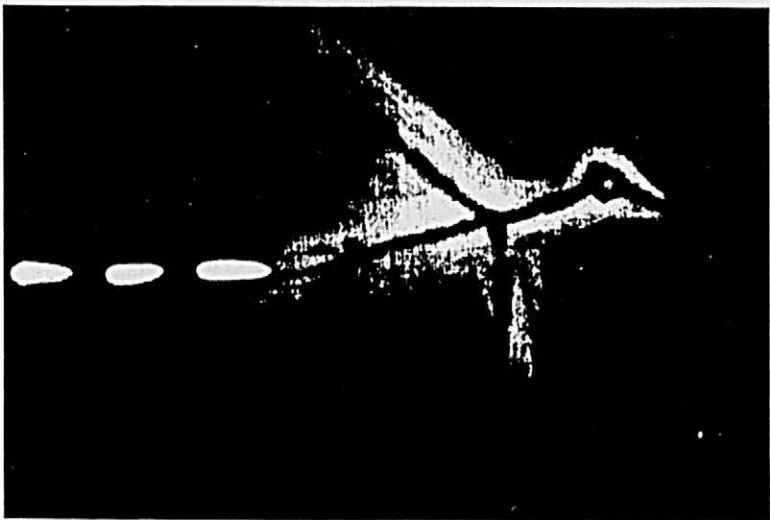
IN THEATRES DECEMBER 15

Seguin, Art & Mystery

Art show leaves it up to you, for better or for worse

BY OLIVIA POJAR
Culture Reporter

Scoters, physics, Tom Jones: these are things I will never understand. I often sit and think of them, bewildered, puzzling over their dynamics. What the hell was my



physics 11 teacher talking about in high school? Why would respectable women throw underwear at such a dirty old man? What possesses one to think 'Hey, a wobbly skateboard with a handle! Good idea!'

Such confusion came rushing back to me upon entering the Galerie Trois Points on St. Catherine. Faced with 14 paintings by local artist Marc Seguin, the realization hit me: I know nothing about art.

Then again, 'art' is such an abstract concept. Just what is 'art' and who gets to decide? Like the university student I am, I turned to the Good Book for answers. Webster's Dictionary defines art as "creativity of man as distinguished from the world of nature." Well, if art is just creativity then why all the fanfare? Van Gogh goes down in history as a genius and his work is still exhibited many years after his death. But my crazy second cousin Laura paints all the time yet her work has never seen the inside of a gallery. She even cut off her finger.

So I read further in the Book; "a making or doing of things that display form, beauty, and unusual perception." And there was light. So that's what 'art' is; "form, beauty, and unusual perception."

Did Seguin's collection entitled *Gravures* contain form? Sure. Was it beautiful? Some of it yeah. Did it display unusual perception? Uh...maybe. Was it art and better yet good art? I have no clue.

Now, obviously, I'm not the best person to judge an art show. Downhill skiing, punk music, horseback riding; I'll judge them until they slink away whimpering. But art, like the filthy pedophile we all know Tom Jones is, are just concepts I cannot grasp.

Other critics have described

Seguin's work as "dramatically sparse," "enigmatic," and "reminiscent of the Italian trans-avant-garde." Artcore describes his creations as "psychologically intense works which are numinous and not easily read, revealing their content only slowly, as a dream." Perhaps this will be more

helpful to you, dear reader, than my amateur ramblings. However, unless you are an art connoisseur that has somehow mistakenly stumbled onto the McGill campus (Concordia is west!), I suspect that, like me, the pedantic mumblings of yet another 'artist' are a foreign language.

And perhaps that is the problem. 'Art,' in whatever form or definition you pick has become the field of the elite: people with enough time on their hands to seek out obscure galleries or enough money to purchase 750\$ paintings to hang in the hallway.

Maybe it's just me and my art ignorance. Or maybe I am a representative of a generation of confusion. A generation where 'art' no longer makes sense.

The show runs until December 23rd @ Galeries Trois Points, 372 St. Catherine.

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daily classifieds

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